

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04170 161037Z

22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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O R 160951Z SEP 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5544

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1335

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WA, PINT

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: WHITE ENDORSE ELECTIONS: RUMORS OF
NEW CONFERENCE INVOLVING SWAPO

1. CHAIRMAN CHAIRMAN OF SOUTH WEST AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE
DIRK MUDGE TOLD THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE NEWSPAPER PRESS
UNION IN WINDHOEK EVENING SEPT 14 THAT AN ELECTION MIGHT
BE USEFUL TO DETERMINE WHO WERE THE TRUE REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE PEOPLES OF THE TERRITORY. SWAPO OPPOSITION TO THURNHALLE
TALKS COULD NOT BE IGNORED, BUT MUDGE THOUGHT IT MIGHT NOT
BE POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT THE BUSINESS OF THE CONFERENCE ON
THE SAME BASIS OF CONSENSUS IF SWAPO WERE TO BE INCLUDED.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04170 161037Z

2. TURNHALLE CONFEREES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING A THREE TIER FORM OF GOVERNMENT WITH POWERS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE CENTRAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. COLORED DELEGATION CAUSED SOME SHOCK SEPT 15 BY INTRODUCING NEW RESOLUTION CALLING FOR GREATLY INCREASED POWER IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN A UNITARY RATHER THAN FEDERAL FORM OF STATE, LEAVING ONLY LIMITED POWERS TO SECOND TIER, IN ESSENCE THE XISTING ETHNIC GROUP ORIENTED ADMINISTRATION. THIS SHARPENED DIFFERENCES WITH WHITE PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT GRANT OTHER GROUPS POWERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE NOW HELD BY WHITES.

3. SPECULATION IS APPEARING IN THE LOCAL PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT A CONFERENCE MIGHT SOON BE HELD SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE TO WHICH TURNHALLE LEADERS, SWAPO REPRESENTATIVES, AND PERHAPS SOUTH AFRICAN OBSERVERS MIGHT BE CALLED TO FORMULATE A NEW APPROACH TO MOVING THE TERRITORY TOWARD INDEPENDENCE. INFORMED PRESSMEN PRIVATELY NOT THAT PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT REITERATION OF EXISTING POLICY THAT SWA COULD DECIDE OWN FUTURE DOES NOT RULE OUT THIS, AMONG OTHER POSSIBILITIES. THEY ANTICIPATE SOME FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE TURNHALLE PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED ADJOURNMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SEPT 17.
BOWDLER

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